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Man Who Helped Lure Ex-Agent to Trial Is Shot

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (UPI) — Ernest Keiser, who helped lure Edwin P. Wilson, a former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency, from Libya to face trial and jail in the United States, was shot and wounded outside a suburban restaurant late Sunday.

Mr. Keiser, 65 years old, suffered a superficial wound in the right side. The assailant fled with Mr. Keiser's briefcase, which Mr. Keiser said contained confidential documents concerning Robert L. Vesco, a fugitive wanted in connection with a \$224 million fraud case.

Mr. Keiser was listed in satisfactory condition at Fairfax Hospital today. A police guard has been posted outside his hospital room.

From his hospital bed, Mr. Keiser told a reporter by telephone today that he thought either Mr. Wilson, operating from his prison cell, or Mr. Vesco, whose whereabouts are not known, might have arranged the shooting.

He said it might have been connected with his reported cooperation with the Federal authorities in trying to get Mr. Vesco back to the United States. "But I have no proof," he said.

Disagreement on Motive

"It definitely was not a mugging," Mr. Keiser said. He said his attacker

"didn't take my wallet, only the briefcase."

Justice Department sources, however, said it was not believed the shooting was related to Mr. Keiser's work as a department informer. The C.I.A. had no comment on the incident.

Mr. Vesco, 49, fled the United States 13 years ago. He is known to have visited Cuba, and in 1983 was reported living in Norman's Cay in the Bahamas.

Mr. Vesco and 20 others are charged with misappropriating \$224 million from Investors Overseas Services. Mr. Vesco is also wanted in the United States on charges of making illegal contributions to President Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign.

The police in Fairfax County, Va., said Mr. Keiser was shot as he walked to his car about 10:50 P.M. Sunday outside Charley's Place restaurant in northern Virginia. He was taken by ambulance to Fairfax Hospital.

Mr. Keiser was to have gone on trial Monday on charges of obtaining \$450,000 by false representations.

Mr. Keiser, at the time a New York businessman, helped the Justice Department lure Mr. Wilson from Libya in 1982 with a guarantee of safety and a resumption of his intelligence work for the United States. He had been a fugitive since 1980. After a series of trials, Mr. Wilson was sentenced to more than 60 years in prison for smuggling arms to Libya and other crimes.

While in jail awaiting trial in New

York, prosecutors said, Mr. Wilson tried to get a fellow inmate to help find someone who, for \$1 million, would kill Mr. Keiser, five witnesses against Mr. Wilson and two Justice Department prosecutors.